

# Conservation News

Newsletter of  
the Defiance  
Soil & Water  
Conservation  
District



In Cooperation with the Defiance County Commissioners

## Summer 2011

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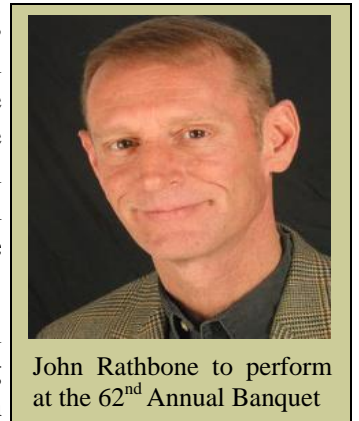
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## 62nd Annual Meeting Banquet

The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District will be celebrating its 62<sup>nd</sup> year at the annual meeting on Saturday, September 10, 2011. This year's meeting will be held at the Hicksville Village School, 958 East High Street, Hicksville. Appetizers will be at 5:00 p.m., followed by a dinner prepared by "Classic Catering by Kim Brown" at 6:00 p.m.

An election of the two expiring positions on the Defiance SWCD Board of Supervisors will be held from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Following the election and dinner, there will be a short PowerPoint presentation of the District's highlights and accomplishments from the past year.

The featured entertainment this year will be John Rathbone. In the past 23 years, John has performed over 5,000 comedy shows. More than one million people have seen him live. His travels have taken him from New York City to California; from Canada to the Caribbean. He was hired to entertain for Fortune 500 giants: AT&T, General Electric, Honda, Philip Morris, Proctor & Gamble and The American Heart Association. John has worked with the top names in the comedy business. Tim Allen, Paul Reiser, Ray Romano...Jerry Seinfeld called him an "excellent comedian." Drew Carey said "John Rathbone always makes me laugh!"



John Rathbone to perform  
at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Banquet

Don't miss this opportunity to be involved in your local SWCD - by electing future District leadership, reviewing accomplishments of the District, all while enjoying an evening of dining and entertainment.

### *Get Your Tickets Now!*

Please return by  
September 2, 2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Defiance SWCD

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_



## Candidate Profiles



**Dan Vetter** and his wife, Loraine, reside at 04333 Fountain Street Road in Hicksville Township. They are the parents of two sons, Chad and Scott and two daughters, Lori and Ashlee. Dan and Loraine also have two grandchildren.

Dan is a full-time farmer owning 220 acres. He farms 1,400 acres with his son, Chad. They raise beef cow/club calves.

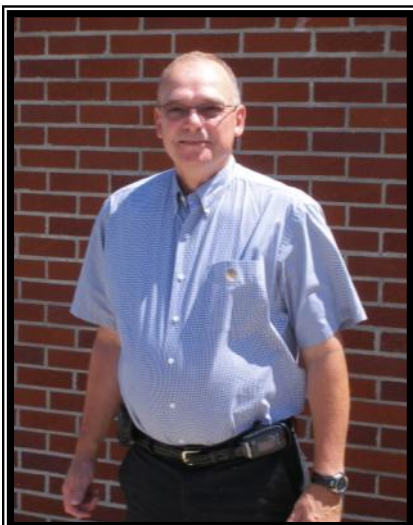
He is a member of the following: St. Michael's Catholic Church, serves as an officer of the Knights of Columbus 10043, Defiance County Fair Foundation Finance Committee, Farmers Union, Farm Bureau, Ohio Soybean Association and the National Corn Growers Association. Dan has served as a SWCD Supervisor for the past 21 years.



**Tom Meek** and his wife, Marilyn, reside at 27295 Jewell Road in Richland Township. They are the parents of two sons, Chuck and Eric. Chuck lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is married and has two children, Sarah (age 11) and John (age 10). Eric lives in Corning, New York.

Tom is a retired owner/operator for the Jewell Oil Company in which they provided fuel to homes and businesses. He has farmed for over 20 years. He and Marilyn own and reside on an 80-acre farm homesteaded by his great grandfather in 1854.

He is a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church and is a past Sunday School Superintendent. Tom is also a US Army veteran and a member of the VFW and life member of Jewell Legion Post 635. Other memberships include: volunteer fireman with Jewell VFD (past president), North American Model Engineering Society, Northeast Indiana Model Engineering Society and an honorary member of the Northeast Wisconsin Machinist Group.



**William (Bill) Moats** and his wife, Susan, reside at 08265 Coy Road in Delaware Township. They have two adult children, daughter Lindsay (Jack) Davis and son Michael (Kristi) Moats. Bill and Susan also have two grandchildren (Jackson and Kendall Davis).

Bill retired from Defiance GM Powertrain in July 1998. He currently works for the Defiance County Sheriff's office as a Court Security Officer. He farms 700 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat with his son, Mike.

He is a member of the following: St. John's Lutheran Church, Defiance County Farm Bureau, Defiance County Associate Deputies and a life-time member of the Defiance County Fish and Game.

## *Duties of the Board of Supervisors*

The Board of Supervisors has the responsibility for the role of leadership in developing and implementing all short and long term goals for the Soil and Water Conservation District. Members of the Board are public officials responsible to the people of the District and the State. They employ and guide the staff of the District on workload priorities, manage the District funds, and are a source of feedback from the public on its needs for land and water assistance.

The position of Supervisor is totally voluntary; therefore, a Supervisor does not get paid for his or her service. Each Supervisor is expected to attend all regular Board meetings and other special meetings as requested. A Supervisor is dedicated to giving freely of his or her time to District business and seeing to the conservation and development of the natural resources of the county.

## *2011 Photo Contest Winners*

Each year, the Defiance SWCD sponsors a student photo contest that is oriented to Conservation, Education, Trees and Plants, Wildlife, and Landscapes. The contest is open to students in grades Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> who are residents of Defiance County or attend a Defiance County School. Photos must have been taken in Defiance County. We look forward to seeing your 2012 photo entries!

### Education

- 1<sup>st</sup> Raeana Moser - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Microscope"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Morgan Barnett - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Education for the Future"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Nathan Drewes - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Recycling"

### Conservation

- 1<sup>st</sup> Morgan Barnett - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Hanging Out with the Roots"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Marisa Olson - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Roadside Sadness"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Gage Snyder - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Stream Erosion"

### Landscapes

- 1<sup>st</sup> Logan Renee Posey - Fairview Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Just a Reflection"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tara Lymanstall - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Winter Sunset"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Allison Helmke - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Sunset in the Middle of Winter"

### Trees and Plants

- 1<sup>st</sup> Kaitlyn Psconda - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"The Beautiful Sunflower"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Emily Cramer - Holy Cross 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Frozen in Time"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Morgan Barnett - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Winter Beauty"

### Wildlife

- 1<sup>st</sup> Klay Kahle - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Lunchtime on the River"
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Allison Helmke - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Canadian Geese in the Flooded River"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tara Lymanstall - Tinora Jr. High 7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
"Resting Geese"



*"Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men."*

*-Gifford Pinchot*





## Rain Barrels

Are you a gardener looking for a way to water your plants and not run up your water bill? Well, then, maybe you should think about installing a rain barrel or two (or four) around your house. Rain barrels are an easy and inexpensive way to catch and reuse the water that runs off of your roof during a storm event. Normally when it rains, water runs off of your roof into your gutters and eventually into the storm drain system. Once it stops raining, that water is no longer available.

During dry weather, wouldn't it be nice to be able to water your garden without running up your water bill? Why not capture that water and put it to good use? Rain barrels are designed to be convenient ways of storing rainwater so that it can be used later to water your plants or lawn.

The idea of storing water for later use has been around for a long time. In the past, people stored water in cisterns and ponds for use.

### 60 Gallon Rain Barrel



**\$70.00**

These rain barrels are food grade high density polyethylene barrels previously used for food. They are cleaned and rinsed with rainwater. A spigot, linking and overflow fittings and screens are then added to the barrels.

### 50 Gallon Rain Barrel



**\$65.00**

1 inch of rain on a 1,000 square feet roof yields 623 gallons of water

## 2011 Manure Science Review

Check out manure handling practices at the Winner Dairy, including separation technology and reuse of waste water. Learn about manure and nutrient management strategies that benefit livestock production, plant growth and the environment.

The event will be located at 7317 State Route 47 West, Degraff, Ohio 43318 on August 16, 2011. For more information visit the website <http://oardc.edu/ocamm> give the office a call at 419-782-58751.

## Congratulations to Our Puzzle Contest Winner

The Spring Issue of "Conservation News" prize giveaway was awarded to Deb Merillat from Archbold. Deb received an Upper Maumee Watershed Partnership / Defiance SWCD prize pack for sending in the completed "Non-point Source Pollution" word puzzle.

Deb's name was drawn from hundreds of puzzles submitted by newsletter readers. We thank everyone for their participation and wish everyone good luck on future contests!



## *Conservation Tillage in the Western Lake Erie Basin*

Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District has been participating in the tillage transect since the early 2000's. The tillage transect consists of driving a designated route and collecting and measuring residue and tillage information at over 300 locations throughout the county. This information is used to measure the amount of conservation tillage being used throughout the Western Lake Erie Basin. Conservation tillage is defined as tillage that leaves more than 30% residue on the field. Conventional tillage is considered anything with less than 30% residue after chiseling, disking, or use of other tillage tools.

Results from a five-year study conducted by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) were recently released showing that

conservation tillage is being used on 58.6% of the basin. The WLEB encompasses 4.9 million acres in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio with approximately 66% of that being cropland. All of Defiance County lies within the basin and is broken into five smaller watersheds including the Auglaize, Upper and Lower Maumee, Tiffin, and St Joseph watersheds.

Results show that conventional tillage was used 80% of the time when corn was in a crop rotation. 65% of beans were planted using no-till throughout the WLEB. Recent debate has blamed no-till farming as a major factor in the algal blooms in Lake Erie and Grand Lake St. Mary's. Some claim that the phosphorus is not being incorporated into the soil and would run-off the fields. This study shows that the soil is being stirred quite often. On average, conventional tillage was used on 41.4% of the acres while mulch tillage was used on 9.7% of the WLEB from 2006-2010.

Defiance SWCD and NRCS are here to assist farmers with technical and financial assistance with such programs as Environmental Quality Incentive Programs (EQIP) and specifically the Great lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). EQIP can help with the implementation of nutrient management systems, conservation tillage or no-till, conservation crop rotation, cover crops, and controlled traffic as part of a conservation plan.

For more information on the Conservation Tillage Survey: <http://www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/>



Photo: PrecisionTillage.com

## *Thank You for Your Continued Financial Support*

The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District would like to express our gratitude to the following entities for their financial assistance:

**Defiance County Commissioners**  
**City of Defiance**  
**Adams Township**  
**Defiance Township**  
**Delaware Township**

**Hicksville Township**  
**Highland Township**  
**Mark Township**  
**Milford Township**  
**Noble Township**

**Richland Township**  
**Tiffin Township**  
**Washington Township**  
**All Affiliate Members**  
**ODNR—Soil and Water Resources**

## *“Great Farms, Great Lake” Conservation in Action Tour*

Don't miss this opportunity to interact with Lake Erie basin farmers and learn how agricultural conservation systems and technologies can benefit the Great Lake. The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) will host its annual **Conservation In Action Tour** August 8-9 in Northwest Ohio.

For years, conservationists have focused on the Maumee River basin as the source of excess dissolved phosphorus and nitrogen detrimental to Lake Erie. The Tour will highlight agricultural producers implementing innovative conservation practices and solutions to water quality issues.

“This tour will deliver direct interaction with producers finding success with conservation and working to fix the problems,” said CTIC Executive Director Karen Scanlon.

On the evening of August 8, participants from more than seven states will relax at a social event in downtown Toledo. At the social, participants will enjoy complimentary food and drink and have the option of a two-hour boat cruise on the Maumee River. Speakers include:

- Jeffrey M. Reutter, Ph.D., representing the Ohio Sea Grant College Program, discussing features of the Lake, including its value, importance, resources and resource issues;
- Stephen Bales of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers explaining dredging and associated costs and environmental challenges;
- Dr. Thomas Bridgeman, University of Toledo, addressing issues related to excess algae in the river and lake;
- Roger Knight, Lake Erie Fisheries program administrator, speaking about economics related to the Port of Toledo, shipping and the value of commerce;
- Joe Cappel, Toledo Port Authority, discussing the port, shipping and value of commerce, and calling attention to points of interest; and
- Rick Unger, Lake Erie charter boat captain, sharing comments on the lake fisheries.

The next day, August 9, participants will experience innovative conservation agriculture solutions with an all-day tour including six stops.

The first stop is **The Andersons, Inc.**, a diversified company with interests in the grain, ethanol and plant nutrient sectors of U.S. agriculture. Dennis Addis, president of the Plant Nutrient Group, will discuss how The Andersons encourage their customers to adopt 4R Nutrient Stewardship (applying nutrients at the Right rate, Right time, Right place and in the Right form). From Toledo, the tour bus heads west to **Bridgewater Dairy**, a family owned business that has grown to include three separate entities - Bridgewater Dairy LLC, Bridgewater Farming LLC, and Oakshade Dairy LLC. The Weaver family leads the operation, which milks 4,200 Holstein Dairy Cows. Leon Weaver, explaining why he uses conservation systems and practices, said, “It is profitable, sustainable and the right thing to do.” The next stop will feature **Allen Dean's** 1,900-acre corn, soybean and cover crop operation. Dean will showcase a soil pit that demonstrates the benefits of cover crops. At the **Mavis Farm**, learn how and why Gary and Scott Mavis are transitioning to no-till and see the technology they employ to help make sound decisions about conservation, production and profitability. Farm tours will round out at **Hesterman Farms**, where host Todd Hesterman will share his experience with the Conservation Action Project and the Ohio phosphorus task force, as well as a newly added drainage water management system on his farm. In addition, Dr. Libby Dayton, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, and Mark Scarpitti, state agronomist with the Ohio Natural Resources Conservation Service, will discuss the sources of soluble phosphorus and impacts to water quality. The tour concludes at the **Blue Creek Conservation Area**, where participants will learn more at the Conservation Technology Expo and enjoy dinner in a beautiful and historic setting. **Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur** will speak at dinner.

Scanlon commented, “If we see the issues up close, we can better visualize solutions to complex water quality concerns. That's why CTIC tours are so successful.”

The Conservation In Action Tour is sponsored in part by Mosaic, John Deere, Syngenta and Agrium.

Register at CTIC's Tour web site. To take advantage of reduced lodging rates, reference CTIC's room block. Find more information at <http://www.ctic.org/CIATours/>.

## County Fair Word Puzzle

Complete the word puzzle below by filling in the blanks with words pertaining to the Defiance County Fair. Once you have completed the puzzle, mail it back to our office, and we will draw one lucky winner's name on July 29, 2011. The randomly drawn entry will receive two complimentary tickets to the Defiance SWCD's Annual Meeting Banquet at the Hicksville School on Saturday, September 10th. The winner will be notified and can pick up their prize at the SWCD office. Thanks for reading *Conservation News* and Good Luck!

G	N	I	W	E	S	S	H	E	E	P	Z	T	O	S
D	E	F	I	A	N	C	E	C	O	U	N	T	Y	T
A	Z	N	U	D	R	Y	R	M	U	G	C	G	K	I
S	U	S	T	I	N	A	R	F	A	O	O	W	C	L
E	F	G	A	E	B	A	C	T	N	G	O	A	O	L
D	A	F	U	B	R	A	T	C	L	Q	I	R	T	P
I	M	B	I	S	M	T	E	S	L	U	E	R	S	R
R	I	T	D	P	T	S	A	X	D	T	O	Y	E	O
E	L	L	I	V	S	K	C	I	H	N	R	P	V	J
S	Y	N	C	I	E	I	F	G	N	I	A	X	I	E
R	G	N	O	I	T	C	U	A	A	M	B	R	L	C
O	E	N	I	W	S	A	N	D	S	R	E	I	G	T
H	S	C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	U	Y	N	T	S
C	O	O	K	I	N	G	N	I	G	D	U	J	T	S
O	4	H	S	D	O	G	S	H	O	W	B	E	E	F



AUCTION  
AUGUST  
BEEF

CAMPING  
CHILDREN  
CONCESSIONS  
COOKING  
DAIRY  
DEFIANCE COUNTY  
DOG SHOW  
ENTERTAINMENT



EXHIBITS  
FAIR  
FAMILY  
FUN  
4 H  
GAMES  
GOAT  
GRANDSTAND  
HICKSVILLE  
HORSE  
JUDGING



LAUGHTER  
LIVESTOCK  
POULTRY  
RABBIT  
RIDES  
SEWING



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



# Conservation News

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DEFIANCE, OHIO

## Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District

06879 Evansport Rd., Defiance , Ohio 43512  
Phone 419-782-8751 Fax 419-782-1791  
swcd@defiance-county.com  
www.defiance-county.com/swcd

### Board of Supervisors

Louis Shininger  
Dan Vetter  
Keith Schroeder  
Gary Mavis  
Tom Beck

### District Personnel

Jeff Ankney  
Terri Agler  
Ben Gerken  
Jason Roehrig  
Jennifer English  
Niki Grindley (UMWC)  
Kip Studer (WLEB)  
Bill Grimes (part-time)  
Kevin Hancock  
Ed Walters  
Dave Sines (part-time)

### NRCS Personnel

Steve Snyder  
Lori Shank  
Mike Boff

## *Notice of Election*

The Ohio Soil and Water Conservation Commission will cause an election of Supervisors of the Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District to be held in accordance with Chapter 1515.01-14 of the Ohio Revised Code, at their 61st Annual Meeting Banquet, Hicksville Village School, Hicksville, Ohio, September 10, 2011.

Two Supervisor's will be elected for three year terms beginning January 1, 2012. You may cast your vote at the Annual Meeting, or if unable to attend, at the Defiance SWCD office, located at 06879 Evansport Road, Defiance, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Absentee ballots can be cast by mail or in person; however, they must be received by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election. To receive an absentee ballot you must request it in writing and your request must include a signature of each person requesting a ballot.

The voting process will be similar to past SWCD Supervisor elections and will take place from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This will enable others to come and vote even if they choose not to stay for the evening activities. When you arrive at the Hicksville School, you will sign in at the registration table, and you will be given a ballot to cast your vote. Once you have done this, you will place your single ballot in a ballot-type box; thus, your voting is completed with absolute secrecy! At 6:00 p.m., the ballots will be counted, and the outcome will be announced later that evening.

### SWCD Office Hours

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The SWCD Board of Supervisors holds its regular monthly meeting the 3rd Tuesday of each month and is open to the public. Please call the office for starting time.

The Defiance Soil and Water Conservation District and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibit discrimination in all their programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. The USDA and Defiance SWCD are equal opportunity providers and employers.